

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are now pending in the application as a result of this amendment. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended, while claim 2 has been canceled. The abstract has been replaced. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the specification because it was longer than 150 words. The Applicant has amended the specification to fewer than 150 words. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan Publication No. 08-254177 (the '177 publication) in view of Japan Publication No. 06-147102 (the '102 publication).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2, which the Examiner has stated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because claim 4 also depends from claim 1, claims 1 and 4 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections in view of the above-stated amendments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2, 3 and 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2; therefore, amended claim 1, and claims 4 and 6, which depend from claim 1, are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Likewise, claim 3 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1, a combination the Examiner has stated as being allowable. Since claims 5 and 7 depend from claim 3, they are believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-7 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

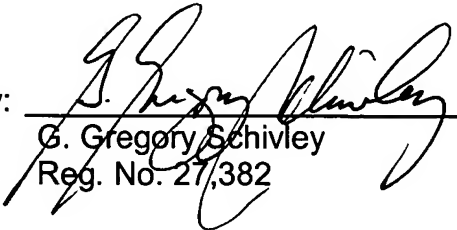
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Aug 30, 2005

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